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PROVISIONAL APPLICATION FOR PATENT COVER SHEET
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TITLE OF THE INVENTION (280 characters max)				
IMPROVEMENTS RELATING TO DIPOLE ANTENNAS				
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Respectfully submitted,

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This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.51. The information is used by the public to file (and by the PTO to process) a provisional application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 8 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed provisional application to the PTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, D.C. 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Box Provisional Application, Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C.

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IMPROVEMENTS RELATING TO DIPOLE ANTENNAS

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

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The present invention relates to a folded dipole, a dipole box, an antenna incorporating an array of dipole boxes, a method of manufacturing a dipole, and an electrically insulating element for retaining together a pair of dipoles.

10 BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

In some wireless communication systems, single band array antennas are employed. However in many modern wireless communication systems network operators wish to provide services under existing mobile communication systems as well as 15 emerging systems. In Europe GSM and DCS1800 systems currently coexist and there is a desire to operate emerging third generation systems (UMTS) in parallel with these systems. In North America network operators wish to operate AMPS/NADC, PCS and third generation systems in parallel.

20 As these systems operate within different frequency bands separate radiating elements are required for each band. To provide dedicated antennas for each system would require an unacceptably large number of antennas at each site. It is thus desirable to provide a compact antenna within a single structure capable of servicing all required frequency bands.

25

Base station antennas for cellular communication systems generally employ array antennas to allow control of the radiation pattern, particularly down tilt. Due to the narrow band nature of arrays it is desirable to provide an individual array for each frequency range. When antenna arrays are interleaved in a single antenna structure 30 the radiating elements must be arranged within the physical geometrical limitations of each array whilst minimising undesirable electrical interactions between the radiating elements.

US 6211841 discloses a dual band cellular base station antenna in which a high frequency band array of cross dipoles is interleaved with a low frequency band array of cross dipoles.

5 US 6333720 discloses a dual polarized dual band antenna. An array of two low frequency band dipole squares are mounted above a ground plane. Dipole feeds angle outwardly from the centre of each group to form a dipole square. The high band radiating elements consist of an array of three cross dipoles. A cross dipole is provided at the centre of each dipole square and one cross dipole is provided
10 between the dipole squares.

15 US 4434425 discloses an arrangement of concentric dipole squares suitable for receiving radiation concentrated by a parabolic reflector antenna. The outer ring consists of vertically and horizontally polarised dipole pairs whereas the inner dipole square consists of dipole pairs having slant 45 polarization. The arrangement provides a common phase centre for receiving radiation from a parabolic reflector.

20 US 4555708 discloses a satellite navigation antenna for producing radiation having circular polarization.

25 It is desirable to provide a multi-band antenna that is compact, easy to manufacture and inexpensive, having good isolation, appropriate beam width, minimal grating lobes and a good cross polarization ratio.

EXEMPLARY EMBODIMENT

According to one exemplary embodiment there is provided a folded dipole having a dipole axis and a pair of arms which together have a profile which is concave on one side and convex on the other when viewed along the dipole axis.

30 According to a further exemplary embodiment there is provided a dipole box comprising two or more folded dipoles arranged around a central region, each folded dipole having a dipole axis and a pair of arms which together have a profile which is concave on one side and convex on the other when viewed along the dipole axis.

It should be noted that the term "box" is used herein as a generic term including (but not limited to) circular and square arrangements.

5 A further exemplary embodiment provides a dipole box comprising two or more dipoles arranged end to end around a central region, wherein the ends of adjacent dipoles are retained together by electrically insulating retaining elements.

A further exemplary embodiment provides an antenna comprising:
10 a first module comprising an outer box of two or more dipoles arranged around a first central region, and an inner box of two or more dipoles located in the first central region concentrically with the outer box; and
15 a second module comprising an outer box of two or more dipoles arranged around a second central region which is spaced from the first region, and an inner box of two or more dipoles located in the second central region concentrically with the outer box.

A further exemplary embodiment provides a method of manufacturing a folded dipole having a dipole axis and a pair of arms which together have a profile which is
20 concave on one side and convex on the other when viewed along the dipole axis, the method comprising forming the pair of arms from a sheet of conductive material.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

25 The accompanying drawings which are incorporated in and constitute part of the specification, illustrate embodiments of the invention and, together with the general description of the invention given above, and the detailed description of the embodiments given below, serve to explain the principles of the invention.

30 Figure 1 shows a plan view of a panel antenna having an array of two dipole rings;
Figure 2 shows an end view of the antenna of figure 1;
Figure 3 shows a plan view of a multi-band antenna having an array of dipole rings and an array of cross dipoles;
35 Figure 4 shows an end view of the antenna of figure 3;

Figure 5 shows an antenna according to a third embodiment having an array of ring dipoles and three linear arrays of cross dipoles;

Figure 6 shows a fourth embodiment, similar to the third embodiment, but including cross dipoles between dipole rings;

5 Figure 7 shows a fifth embodiment including an array of dipole rings having three cross dipoles within each ring;

Figure 8 shows a sixth embodiment in which each of the dipole rings of a first array of ring dipoles are located concentrically within each dipole ring of a second array of dipole rings;

10 Figure 9 shows a seventh embodiment, similar to the embodiment of figure 6, in which high frequency dipole rings are provided between low frequency dipole rings;

Figure 10 shows an antenna module in which the inner dipole box is a dipole square formed of linear folded dipoles;

15 Figure 11 shows an antenna module in which the inner dipole box is a dipole square formed of bent folded dipoles;

Figure 12 shows an embodiment including a first array of bent folded dipole squares and three linear arrays of cross dipoles;

20 Figure 13 shows an embodiment in which the cross dipoles are in a square rather than diamond formation within each dipole square;

Figure 14 shows an antenna module consisting of two concentric bent folded dipole squares;

25 Figure 15 shows an antenna module, similar to the embodiment of Figure 14, in which the inner dipole square is formed of linear folded dipoles rather than bent folded dipoles;

Figure 16 shows an antenna module in which the inner dipole box is formed of curvilinear folded dipoles rather than bent folded dipoles;

30 Figure 17 shows an antenna module including a first dipole square formed of linear folded dipoles and a second dipole square formed of bent folded dipoles;

Figure 18 shows an antenna module in which the inner dipole square of Figure 17 is replaced by a ring of curvilinear folded dipoles;

Figure 19 shows an alternative dipole ring consisting of two semicircular folded dipoles.

Figure 20 shows an array of dipole rings of the type shown in figure 19.

Figure 21 shows a preferred embodiment;

Figure 22 shows a perspective view of a single antenna module;

Figure 23 shows a plan view of the module of figure 22;

5 Figure 24 shows one of the cross dipoles of figure 22 viewed from the centre of the module;

Figure 25 shows a side view of the module of figure 22;

Figure 26 shows a schematic view of the antenna feed network for feeding the antenna of figure 21;

10 Figure 27 shows a plan view of a clip with a dipole arm being inserted;

Figure 28 shows an end view of the clip; and

Figure 29 shows a cross-section through the clip along a line A-A in figure 27.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF EMBODIMENTS OF THE INVENTION

15 Figure 1 shows a plan view of an array of ring dipoles according to a first aspect of the invention. First and second dipole rings 1 and 2 are provided in spaced apart relation above ground plane 3. Each dipole ring consists of four folded dipoles, such as folded dipoles 4, 5, 6 and 7 arranged in a ring.

20 Each dipole 4, 5, 6, 7 is constructed identically and an exemplary dipole 4 will be described. The dipole 4 has a pair of arms 8,9 which are generally curvilinear in shape and lie in a plane parallel to the plane of ground plane 3 (ie. a plane orthogonal to the axis of propagation of the dipole 4). The centre of curvature of the arms 8,9 lies at the centre of the ring 1. In this embodiment each folded dipole 4, 5, 6, 7 extends over about a quarter circle so that a ring of folded dipoles 4, 5, 6, 7 forms an approximately circular dipole ring 1. It can be seen that the dipoles 4-7 are generally concavo-convex as viewed along their axes of propagation. That is, they have a convex outer side and a concave inner side.

25 The dipoles are arranged as orthogonally opposed pairs. Folded dipoles 4 and 7 form a first pair offset by + 45° with respect to the vertical and folded dipoles 5 and 6 form a second pair, orthogonal to dipoles 4 and 7, offset by - 45° with respect to vertical. This arrangement allows the antenna to propagate and receive dual

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5 polarized slant 45 radiation. As shown in figure 2, feeds 11 and 12 support folded dipole 5 and feeds 13 and 14 support folded dipoles 7. Feeds 11, 12, 13 and 14 are connected to a printed circuit board (PCB) feed network 15 on top of the ground plane 3. The PCB feed network 15 is shown in figure 2 but omitted from Figure 1 for clarity. In other embodiments (not shown) the PCB feed network 15 may be replaced by an air suspended microstrip or a cable.

10 The dipole arms and feeds are formed by stamping from a single sheet of metal and folding the feeds by 90°.

15 Referring now to figure 3, a dual band embodiment is shown in which a low frequency array of dipole rings 20, 21 and 22 has the same construction as the dipole rings shown in figures 1 and 2. A more detailed description of a five element antenna (otherwise identical to the antenna of figure 3) is given in figures 21-29.

20 15 Each ring defines an inner region within the ring providing a large area to accommodate further radiating elements of a high frequency array. The radiating elements of such further array may be dipole elements, patches or any other desired elements. In this embodiment a high frequency array of cross dipoles 23-28 is provided within the dipole rings. The high frequency array operates in a high frequency band having a mid-point frequency higher than the mid-point frequency of operation of the low frequency dipole ring array. The cross dipole array also provides slant 45 dual polarization.

25 The arrangement shown in figures 3 and 4 has a number of desirable characteristics. Firstly, a dual band antenna is provided that is compact as the radiating elements of both bands can be contained within the same area. Secondly, the arrangement has good symmetry resulting in good isolation characteristics. The fact that no radiating element is positioned in the gaps between the dipole rings results in good symmetry and thus good isolation. The geometrical arrangement further allows the high frequency dipoles 23-28 to be evenly spaced, thus minimising grating lobes.

30 The end view shown in figure 4 is similar to the end view for the first embodiment shown in figure 1 except that a cross dipole is shown. Cross dipole 28 has arms 31 and 32 supported by feeds 33 and 34 respectively. The arms 31 and 32 are inclined

downwardly towards ground plane 35. The arms of the cross dipoles preferably incline towards ground plane 35 by about 20°. The geometry allows PCB feed network 36 to be kept relatively compact with one PCB feeding each dipole ring and elements within the ring.

5

Referring now to figure 5 a third embodiment is shown which is a modification of the embodiment shown in figure 3. Like integers have been given like numbers. In this embodiment two additional arrays of cross dipoles have been added to the embodiment shown in figure 3. A first array of cross dipoles 40, 41 and 42 is provided to the left and a second array of cross dipoles 43, 44 and 45 is provided to the right. By adjusting power division or phase shift between first array 40, 41 and 42, second array 23-28 and third array 43-45, beam width may be adjusted or azimuth steering may be provided. Various feed arrangements for adjusting beam width or effecting azimuth and/or downtilt steering are disclosed in the Applicant's PCT application no. PCT/NZ01/00137, the disclosure of which is hereby incorporated by way of reference. Such techniques may also be utilised with the multi array embodiments described hereafter. Beam width/angle control may be effected using a remotely controlled electromechanical motor (not shown) mounted on the back of the antenna ground plane, as described in more detail in PCT/NZ01/00137 and PCT/NZ95/00106, the disclosure of which is also hereby incorporated by way of reference.

25

The arrangement shown in figure 5 has good symmetry with no radiating element at the middle of any dipole ring and no radiating elements between dipole rings. This results in good isolation characteristics. Further, the cross dipoles 23-28 of the main array are evenly spaced to minimize grating lobe potential.

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The fourth embodiment of figure 6 is a modification of the third embodiment shown in figure 5 and only the additional elements have been referenced. In this embodiment additional cross dipoles 50-53 are provided in the outer cross dipole arrays. These enhance control of beam width and azimuth beam steering and reduce the effect of grating lobes in the outer cross dipole arrays.

Figure 7 shows a fifth embodiment, similar to the second embodiment shown in figures 3 and 4, in which three cross dipoles are provided within each dipole ring instead of two. Like integers have been given like numbers to those in figure 3. In this embodiment three linear arrays of cross dipoles 55, 58 and 61; -54, 57 and 60; and 56, 59 and 62 are provided. Each array is evenly spaced to reduce grating lobes. All of the cross dipoles are located within the dipole rings and are equidistant from the centre of the ring so as to form an equilateral triangle shape which has good symmetry and thus good isolation characteristics.

Figure 8 shows a sixth embodiment comprising a first array of dipole rings for operation over a first frequency band and a second array of dipole rings 66, 67 and 68 operable over a second frequency band having a mid-frequency higher than the mid-frequency of the first frequency band. All dipole rings employ curvilinear folded dipoles of substantially quarter circle segments. The arrangement has good symmetry and thus good isolation characteristics.

The seventh embodiment shown in figure 9 is similar to the sixth embodiment shown in figure 8 except that additional high band dipole rings 69 and 70 are provided in the gaps between low frequency dipole rings 71-73. The array of high frequency dipole rings 74, 69, 75, 70 and 76 may be spaced so as to avoid grating lobes. It will be appreciated that additional high frequency band dipole rings may be placed between low frequency band dipole rings in other embodiments herein described also.

Referring now to figure 10 an antenna module is shown comprising a dipole square 80 oriented to provide slant 45° polarization, and a ring 83.

Figure 11 shows an antenna module, which is a variant of the module shown in figure 10, in which the dipole square 80 is replaced with a dipole square 86 consisting of four bent folded dipoles. Each bent folded dipole has a pair of straight arms disposed at about 90° to one another and meeting at a corner. Thus the bent folded dipoles each have a generally V-shaped profile as viewed along the axis of the dipole.

Figure 12 shows an embodiment in which a low band array consists of an array of bent folded dipole squares 92, 93 and 94 and three high frequency arrays are formed by cross dipoles 95-97; 98-102, 77; and 103-105. Bent folded dipole squares 92, 93 and 94 provide a geometry that allows the squares to be closely spaced together whilst providing a large inner region to accommodate high frequency radiating elements. The arrangement provides two dual polarization slant 45 antennas for operation over different frequency bands. The symmetry of the arrangement provides good isolation.

The embodiment shown in figure 13 employs a square arrangement of cross dipoles within each square instead of a diamond arrangement. This results in two cross dipole arrays 106-111 and 112-117 within bent folded dipole squares 118-120.

Referring now to figure 14 an antenna module is shown consisting of a low frequency band dipole square 121 and a high frequency band dipole square 124. The dipole squares are formed from bent folded dipoles and are arranged concentrically.

Figure 15 shows a modified antenna module in which the high frequency dipole square 127 is formed of linear folded dipoles, whilst the low frequency dipole square 130 is formed of bent folded dipoles.

Figure 16 shows a further variant in which the high frequency band element is a dipole ring 133 whilst the low frequency dipole square 136 is formed of bent folded dipoles. Also, the bent folded dipoles forming the dipole square 136 have truncated corners 139.

Figure 17 shows a further embodiment in which the high frequency band element is a bent folded dipole square 173 and the low frequency band element is a linear folded dipole square 170.

Figure 18 shows a further variant in which the high frequency band radiating element is a dipole ring 182 and the low frequency band radiating elements is a linear fold d dipole square 184.

Figures 10, 11, and 14-18 each show various single antenna modules, consisting of a concentric pair of dipole boxes. A dual band antenna may be constructed using a single module only. Alternatively, an array antenna may be constructed using an array of the modules of Figures 10, 11 and 14-18, with an additional high frequency radiating dipole box positioned between each module (as shown in Figure 9). The additional high frequency dipole box is required so that the centre-to-centre spacing of the high frequency elements is approximately half the centre-to-centre spacing of the low frequency elements, so that in wavelength terms the centre-to-centre spacing is approximately equal.

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A further alternative dipole ring 220 is shown in Figure 19. The ring consists of two curved folded dipoles 221,222. The dipoles 221,222 are identical in construction to the dipoles 4-7 shown in Figure 1, except the dipole arms extend over a semi-circle.

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A panel antenna 230 shown in Figure 20 has a ground plane 231 and three dipole rings 232-234 each consisting of two semicircular dipoles.

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A preferred embodiment is shown in Figure 21. The antenna 300 has a back panel 301 carrying five identical modules 302, one of which is shown in detail in Figures 22-25. Module 302 has a dipole ring consisting of two +45° folded dipoles 303 and two -45° folded dipoles 304. Feed legs 305-308 are connected to a printed circuit board (PCB) 309 as shown. The dipole arms and feeds are formed by stamping from a single sheet of metal and folding the feed legs by 90°.

25

A pair of high frequency cross dipoles 310,311 is provided within the dipole ring. Each cross dipole has a +45° dipole and a -45° dipole formed as copper strips deposited on insulating boards 312,313. Each dipole is driven by a respective balun feedline deposited on the other side of the insulating board. Figure 24 is a side view of cross dipole 311 as viewed from the centre of Figure 23. Insulating board 313 carries a balun feedline 320 shown in Figure 24 which leads to a quarterwave open-circuit stub portion (hidden behind the other insulating board 312 in Figure 24). Insulating board 312 carries a balun feedline (hidden behind the other insulating board 313 in Figure 24) and a quarterwave pen-circuit stub portion 321. The balun feedline and quarterwave open-circuit stub portions couple capacitively with the

dipoles printed on the other side of the insulating board. The two balun feedlines and open-circuit portions are arranged in a typical cross over/cross under fashion.

The antenna is driven by a feed network illustrated schematically in Figure 26. The 5 low frequency dipole rings are driven by feed network 330, and the high frequency crossed dipoles are driven by feed network 331. Each feed network has a respective pair of feedlines which input into downtilt phase shifters 332-335. Each phase shifter 332-335 has a single input feedline and five antenna output lines 341,342. A progressive phase shift is introduced on the five antenna output lines to produce 10 variable downtilt. The degree of downtilt is controlled remotely by a controller 336 as described in more detail in PCT/NZ01/00137 and PCT/NZ95/00106. The four phase shifters 332-335 may be driven together or independently. The phase shifter 332 is connected to the ten low frequency +45° folded dipoles 303 via power splitters 337. The phase shifter 333 is connected to the ten low frequency -45° folded 15 dipoles 304 via power splitters 338. The phase shifter 334 is connected to the ten high frequency +45° dipoles 313 via power splitters 339. The phase shifter 335 is connected to the ten high frequency -45° dipoles 312 via power splitters 340.

The power splitters 337-340 are shown in detail in Figure 23. Feedline 341 is 20 coupled to four lines 350-353 via T-junctions 354-356. Each line 350-353 is coupled to a respective dipole feed leg 305-308. Lines 353 and 351 are longer than lines 350,352, and thus introduce a 180° phase shift between the respective pair of dipole feed legs. Feedline 342 is coupled to a pair of lines 360,361 via T-junction 25 362. Each line 360,361 is coupled to a respective dipole 312. As shown in the side view of Figure 24, the dipoles are balun fed by a balun feedline 320 coupled to a respective line 360 or 361.

The folded dipoles 303,304 are retained together by insulating clips 400 shown in 30 detail in Figures 27-29. The dipole 304 is shown being inserted into the clip 400 in figure 27. The arm of the dipole 304 shown in figure 27 has a pair of strips 401, 402 which meet at a folded end 403 having a distal outer edge, and a proximal inner edge 404.

The clip 400 has a frame portion formed by convex outer side wall 415, concave inner side wall 414, and a pair of end walls 412. The side walls 414,415 are joined by a dividing wall 416 and a pair of lateral strips 413. Each end wall 412 is formed with a pair of tabs 417 which are bent down as shown in Figure 29. The end 403 of the folded dipole 304 is inserted into slot 410 between tab 417 and dividing wall 416 with the tab 417 folded down. The dipole 301 is then pulled back slightly so that the inner edge 404 of the folded end engages the tab 417 to lock the dipole in place.

10 Four circular notches 418 are provided between dividing wall 416 and side walls 414,415. The purpose of the circular notches is for tolerancing between mating parts. The circular notches help the parts mate together in case there is a burr or sharp corner to the corner of the dipole arm 304 where the pair of strips 401, 402 meet the folded end 403

15 For proper molded parts, it is important to keep all walls the same thickness from a point of view of shrink during cooling. Therefore the dividing wall 416 is T-shaped in cross-section and a slot (not labelled) is formed between the dividing walls and the lateral strips 413. The other reason for this design is to make the mold tool an easier, 20 cheaper tool given the hooking function of the clip.

25 Although many of the embodiments show three low band dipole boxes it will be appreciated that any number of dipole boxes may be employed. Further, it will be appreciated that high band elements may be provided between the low band dipole boxes of the embodiments of figures 7,8 and 10-18, as per the embodiments of figures 6 and 9

30 The invention provides antennas having at least two frequency bands, and dual polarization (slant 45) performance within a compact assembly. The dipole ring or square structure provides a large inner region for accommodating secondary radiating elements of one or more second array. By accommodating secondary radiating elements within the dipole boxes, isolation may be improved. By adopting symmetrical placements of secondary radiating elements within the dipole boxes good isolation can be achieved. The arrangement allows secondary radiating

elements to maintain a uniform spacing whilst being located within the dipole boxes, thus reducing the effect of grating lobes.

While the present invention has been illustrated by the description of the 5 embodiments thereof, and while the embodiments have been described in detail, it is not the intention of the Applicant to restrict or in any way limit the scope of the appended claims to such detail. Additional advantages and modifications will readily appear to those skilled in the art. Therefore, the invention in its broader aspects is not limited to the specific details, representative apparatus and method, and 10 illustrative examples shown and described. Accordingly, departures may be made from such details without departure from the spirit or scope of the Applicant's general inventive concept.

For instance, sub-reflectors may be employed to achieve desired beam patterns. 15 Thus, for example, each cross dipole may be framed by four conductive side walls which broaden the beam width and improve isolation.

The feed network shown is a microstrip configuration: that is, the PCB 309 is a 20 dielectric substrate which carries conductive microstrip feedlines on its upper face shown in Figures 22 and 23, and carries a conductive ground plane (for instance a layer of copper) on its reverse side (not shown). In an alternative air-suspended microstrip configuration, the conductive microstrip is separated from the ground plane by an air gap.

25 The high frequency cross dipoles lie closer to the ground plane than the low frequency folded dipoles, as shown most clearly in Figures 24 and 25. However, in alternative embodiments (not shown) the height of the feed legs 305-308 may be reduced from the height shown. In extreme cases it is possible that the low frequency folded dipoles may lie closer to the ground plane than the high frequency 30 cross dipoles. In this case, the cross dipoles will be mounted closer together to provide sufficient clearance.

The clip shown in the figures has a concave edge and a convex edge so as to fit within a ring configuration. Optionally the clip may have straight sides and perform the same function/fit for the square dipole configurations.

CLAIMS:

1. A folded dipole having a dipole axis and a pair of arms which together have a profile which is concave on one side and convex on the other when viewed along the dipole axis.

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2. A folded dipole according to claim 1 wherein the arms are at least partially curved.

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3. A folded dipole according to claim 2 wherein the arms have curved portions which have a substantially constant radius of curvature.

4. A folded dipole according to claim 2 wherein the arms are at least partially curved in a plane substantially orthogonal to the dipole axis.

15

5. A folded dipole according to claim 1 wherein the pair of arms meet at a corner.

20

6. A folded dipole according to claim 5 wherein the corner subtends an angle lying in the range of 80° to 100°.

7. A folded dipole according to claim 5 wherein each arm is substantially straight.

25

8. A folded dipole according to claim 5 wherein the corner is truncated.

9. A folded dipole according to claim 1 further comprising a feed line coupled to a concave side of the pair of arms.

30

10. A folded dipole according to claim 1 wherein the pair of arms are formed of sheet material.

11. A folded dipole according to claim 10 wherein both arms are formed from the same sheet.

12. A folded dipole according to claim 1 further comprising a first feedline coupled to one of the arms and a second feedline coupled to the other arm.

5 13. An antenna comprising a ground plane; and a folded dipole according to claim 1 arranged with its dipole axis directed away from the ground plane.

14. A cellular base station including an antenna according to claim 13.

10 15. A communication system including a network of cellular base stations according to claim 14.

15 16. A dipole box comprising two or more folded dipoles arranged around a central region, each folded dipole having a dipole axis and a pair of arms which together have a profile which is concave on one side and convex on the other when viewed along the dipole axis.

20 17. A dipole box according to claim 16 wherein each pair of arms has a curved portion with a centre of curvature which is located in the central region.

25 18. A dipole box according to claim 16 comprising four or more folded dipoles arranged around the central region, each folded dipole having a dipole axis and a pair of arms which together have a profile which is concave on one side and convex on the other when viewed along the dipole axis.

19. A dipole box according to claim 18 wherein the dipoles are arranged as orthogonally opposed pairs.

30 20. A dipole box according to claim 19 wherein each pair of dipoles is oriented at about $\pm 45^\circ$ with respect to vertical.

21. An antenna comprising a ground plane; and a dipole box according to claim 16 arranged with the dipole axes directed away from the ground plane.

22. An antenna according to claim 21 comprising two or more dipole boxes spaced apart along an antenna axis, each dipole box comprising four dipoles oriented at about $\pm 45^\circ$ with respect to the antenna axis.

5 . 23. An antenna according to claim 21 wherein the dipole boxes are operable over a low frequency range, and the antenna further comprises one or more columns of high frequency radiating elements superimposed with the dipole boxes and operable over a high frequency range having a mid point higher than a mid point of the low frequency range.

10 24. An antenna according to claim 23 wherein the high frequency radiating elements are cross dipoles.

15 25. An antenna according to claim 21 comprising two or more dipole boxes arranged along an antenna axis, each dipole box comprising a pair of substantially semicircular folded dipoles.

26. A cellular base station including an antenna according to claim 21.

20 27. A communication system including a network of cellular base stations according to claim 26.

25 28. An electrically insulating retaining element for retaining together adjacent ends of a pair of dipoles, the element comprising a frame formed by an opposed pair of side walls and an opposed pair of end walls; a dividing wall joining the opposed pair of side walls; and a pair of projections each provided on a respective end wall and directed inwardly towards the dividing wall.

29. An element according to claim 28 wherein the projections are folded tabs.

30 30. An element according to claim 28 wherein the opposed pair of side walls includes a convex outer wall and a concave inner wall.

31. A dipole assembly comprising two or more dipoles having adjacent ends retained together by electrically insulating retaining elements.

32. An assembly according to claim 31 wherein the dipoles are arranged end to end so as to enclose a central region.

33. An assembly according to claim 31 wherein the dipoles are folded dipoles, and wherein the adjacent ends have proximal inner edges which are engaged by the retaining element(s) to secure the dipoles in place.

34. An assembly according to claim 31 wherein the retaining element(s) comprise(s) a frame formed by an opposed pair of side walls and an opposed pair of end walls; a dividing wall joining the opposed pair of side walls; and a pair of projections each provided on a respective end wall and directed inwardly towards the dividing wall.

35. An assembly according to claim 34 wherein the dipoles are folded dipoles, and wherein the adjacent ends have proximal inner edges which are each engaged by a respective projection to secure the dipoles in place.

36. An antenna comprising a ground plane; and a dipole assembly according to claim 31.

37. A cellular base station including an antenna according to claim 36.

38. A communication system including a network of cellular base stations according to claim 37.

39. An antenna comprising:

a first module comprising an outer box of two or more dipoles arranged around a first central region, and an inner box of two or more dipoles located in the first central region concentrically with the outer box; and
a second module comprising an outer box of two or more dipoles arranged around a second central region which is spaced from the first region,

and an inner box of two or more dipoles located in the second central region concentrically with the outer box.

40. An antenna according to claim 39 wherein each inner box is operable over a
5 high frequency range and each outer box is operable over a low frequency
range having a mid point lower than a mid point of the high frequency range.

41. An antenna according to claim 39 further comprising an additional high
10 frequency dipole box operable in the high frequency range and positioned in a
gap between the first and second modules whereby the spacing between the
high frequency boxes is smaller than the spacing between the low frequency
boxes.

42. An antenna according to claim 39 further comprising a ground plane.

15 43. An antenna according to claim 39 wherein the outer box dipoles comprise
folded dipoles.

44. An antenna according to claim 39 wherein the inner box dipoles comprise
20 folded dipoles.

45. An antenna according to claim 39 wherein the outer box dipoles each have a
25 dipole axis and a pair of arms which together have a profile which is concave
on one side and convex on the other when viewed along the dipole axis

46. An antenna according to claim 39 wherein the inner box dipoles comprise
folded dipoles having a dipole axis and a pair of arms which together have a
30 profile which is concave on one side and convex on the other when viewed
along the dipole axis.

47. An antenna according to claim 39 wherein the outer box dipoles are arranged
35 in a linear array.

48. An antenna according to claim 39 wherein each outer box comprises
35 orthogonally opposing pairs of dipoles.

49. An antenna according to claim 39 wherein each inner box comprises orthogonally opposing pairs of dipoles.

5 50. An antenna according to claim 48 wherein each pair of dipoles in the outer box is off-set with respect to vertical by about $\pm 45^\circ$.

5 51. An antenna according to claim 48 wherein each pair of dipoles in the inner box is off-set with respect to vertical by about $\pm 45^\circ$.

10 52. An antenna according to claim 39 wherein the outer box dipoles comprise two orthogonally opposed pairs of folded dipoles off-set with respect to vertical by about $\pm 45^\circ$ which each have a dipole axis and a pair of arms which together have a profile which is concave on one side and convex on the other when viewed along the dipole axis; and the inner box dipoles comprise two orthogonally opposed pairs of folded dipoles off-set with respect to vertical by about $\pm 45^\circ$ having a dipole axis and a pair of arms which together have a profile which is concave on one side and convex on the other when viewed along the dipole axis.

20 53. An antenna according to claim 52 wherein the arms of the inner and outer box dipoles are curved.

25 54. An antenna according to claim 52 wherein the arms of the inner and outer box dipoles are straight.

55. An antenna according to claim 52 wherein the arms of the outer box dipoles are curved and the arms of the inner box dipoles are straight.

30 56. An antenna according to claim 52 wherein the arms of the outer box dipoles are straight and the arms of the inner box dipoles are curved.

35 57. An antenna according to claim 39 wherein the outer box dipoles comprise two orthogonally opposed pairs of folded dipoles off-set with respect to vertical by about $\pm 45^\circ$ which each have a dipole axis and a pair of arms which together have a profile which is concave on one side and convex on the other when viewed along the dipole axis; and the inner box dipoles comprise two orthogonally opposed pairs of folded dipoles off-set with respect to vertical by

about $\pm 45^\circ$ in a diamond-shaped configuration.

58. An antenna according to claim 57 wherein the arms of the outer box dipoles are curved.

5 59. An antenna according to claim 57 wherein the arms of the outer box dipoles are straight.

10 60. An antenna according to claim 39 wherein the outer box dipoles comprise two orthogonally opposed pairs of folded dipoles off-set with respect to vertical by about $\pm 45^\circ$ in a diamond-shaped configuration; and the inner box dipoles comprise two orthogonally opposed pairs of folded dipoles off-set with respect to vertical by about $\pm 45^\circ$ which each have a dipole axis and a pair of arms which together have a profile which is concave on one side and convex on the 15 other when viewed along the dipole axis.

61. An antenna according to claim 60 wherein the arms of the inner box dipoles are curved.

20 62. An antenna according to claim 60 wherein the arms of the inner box dipoles are straight.

63. A cellular base station including an antenna according to claim 39.

25 64. A communication system including a network of cellular base stations according to claim 63.

30 65. A method of manufacturing a folded dipole having a dipole axis and a pair of arms which together have a profile which is concave on one side and convex on the other when viewed along the dipole axis, the method comprising forming the pair of arms from a sheet of conductive material.

66. A method according to claim 65 wherein the arms are formed by stamping the arms out from the sheet.

35 67. A method according to claim 65 further comprising forming one or more feed legs from the sheet.

68. A method according to claim 67 further comprising bending the feed leg(s) out of the plane of the sheet.

Abstract**IMPROVEMENTS RELATING TO DIPOLE ANTENNAS**

5 The invention relates in part to a folded dipole having a dipole axis and a pair of arms (8,9) which together have a profile which is concave on one side and convex on the other when viewed along the dipole axis. The dipoles may be arranged as a dipole box around a central region, typically in a generally circular or square configuration. 10 Further elements (23,28) may be placed in the dipole box or in the gaps between dipole boxes. The antenna may be a single-band antenna, or a multi-band antenna with the further elements operating in a different frequency band to the dipole boxes. The further elements may be concentric dipole boxes. The invention is particularly suited for use in a cellular base station panel antenna.

15 CSPEC20090

DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare:

That my residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

That I verily believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural inventors are named below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

IMPROVEMENTS RELATING TO DIPOLE ANTENNAS

the specification of which (check one)

(X) is attached hereto.
() was filed on _____ as
Application Serial No. _____
and was amended on _____
(if applicable)

That I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claim, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

That I acknowledge the duty to disclose information known to be material to patentability of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56(a).

That I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, §119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate on this invention having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

Prior Foreign Application(s)

Priority Claimed

Yes No

Yes No

(Number) (Country) (Day/Month/Year Filed)

(Number) (Country) (Day/Month/Year Filed)

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below.

(Application Number) (Filing Date)

(Application Number) (Filing Date)

That I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, §120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, §112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56(a) which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

United States Application(s)

(Application Serial No.)	(Filing Date)	(Status)-(Patented, pending, abandoned)
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That all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

I hereby appoint the following attorneys, with full power of substitution and revocation, to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the United States Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith and request that all correspondence and telephone calls in respect to this application be directed to WELSH & KATZ, LTD., 120 South Riverside Plaza, 22nd Floor, Chicago, Illinois 60606, Telephone No. (312) 655-1500:

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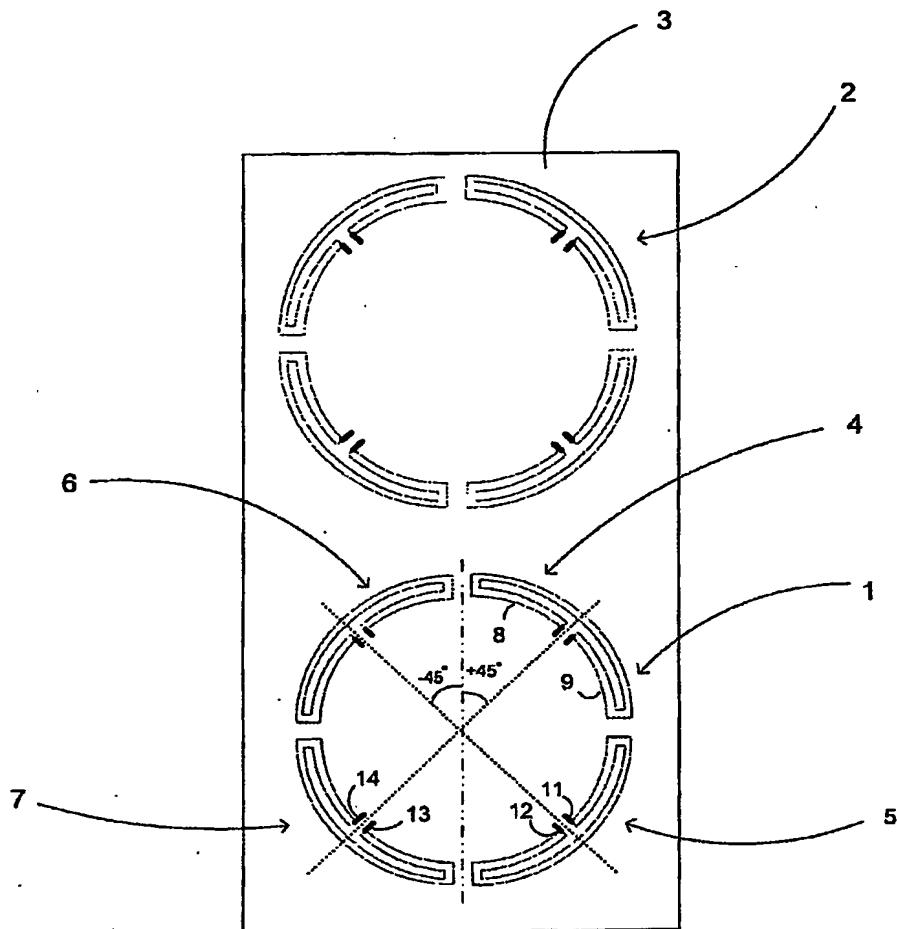


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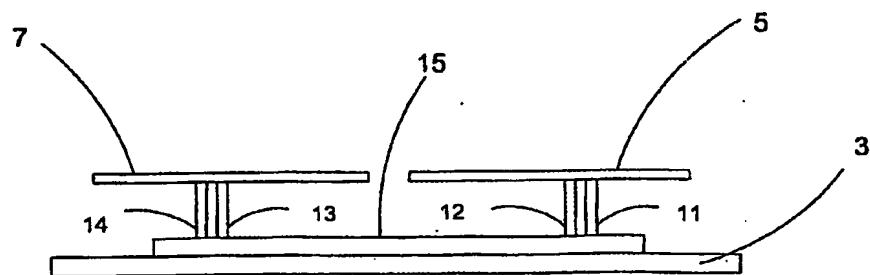


FIGURE 2

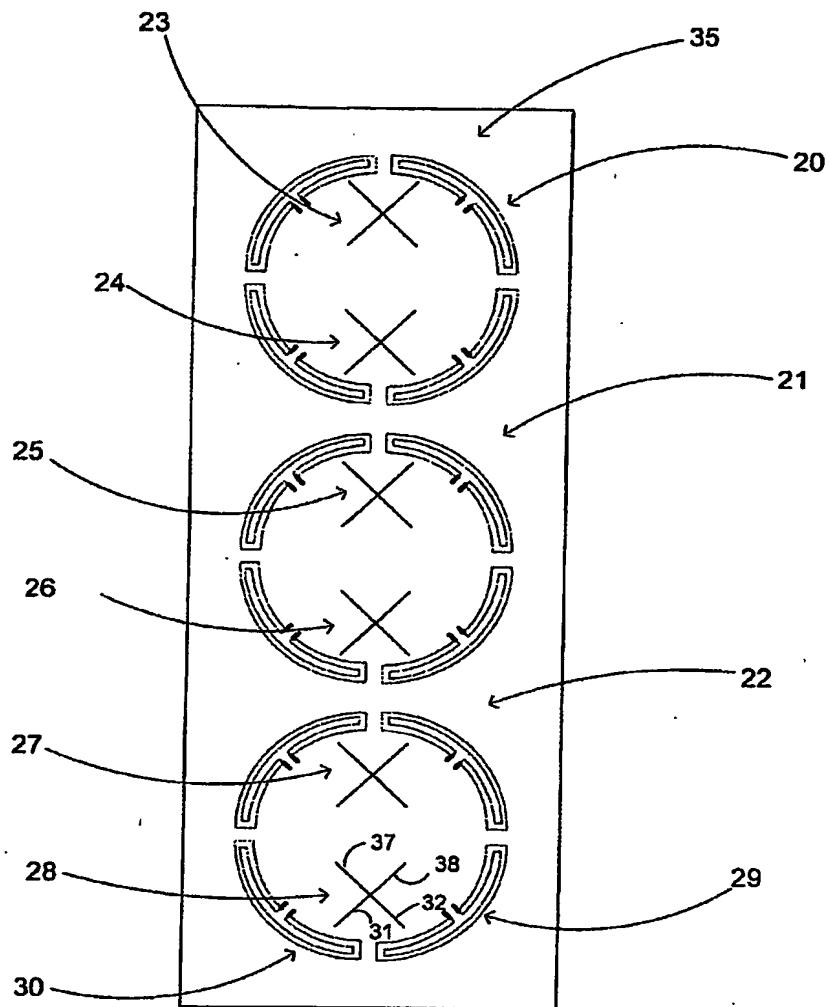


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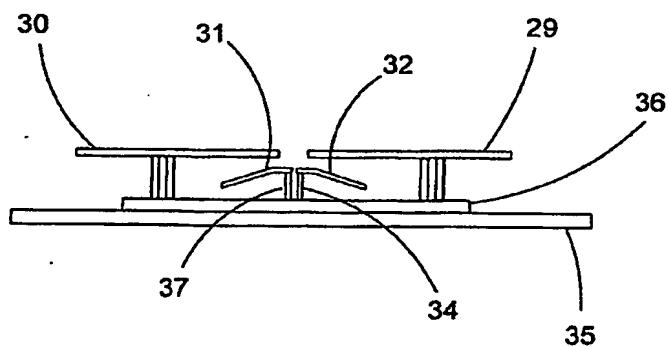


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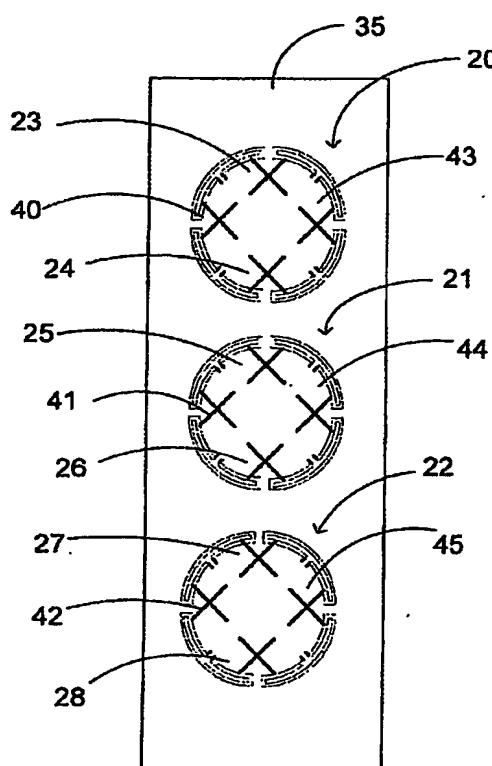


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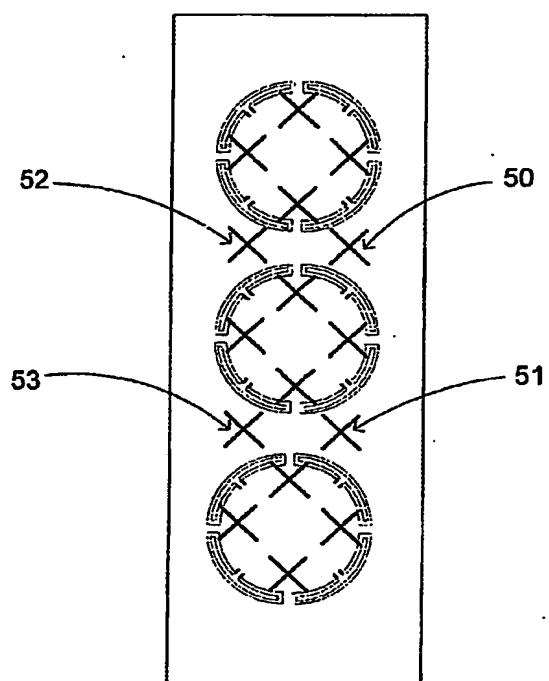


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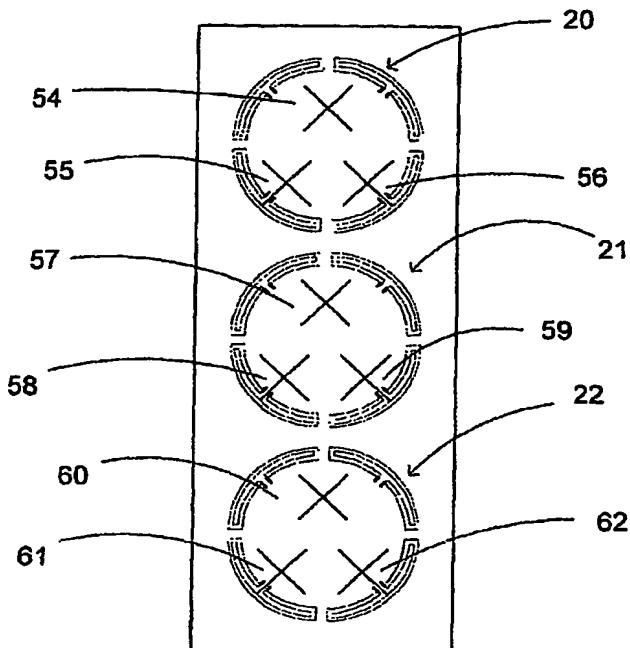


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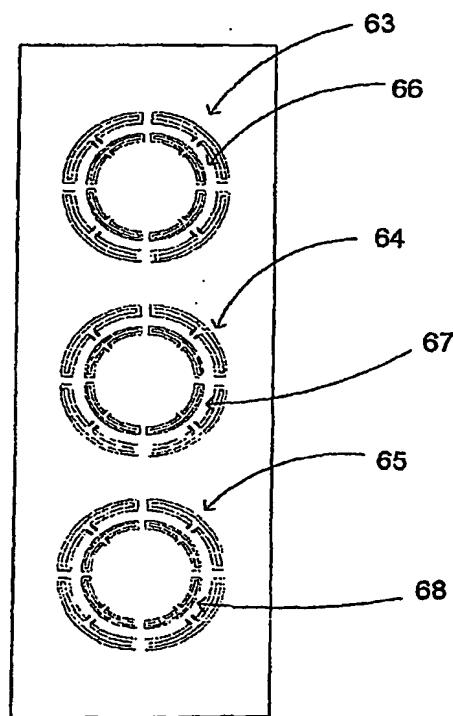


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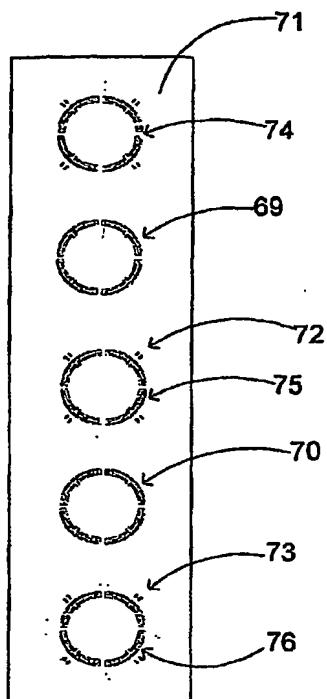


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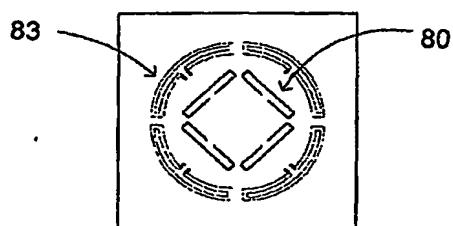


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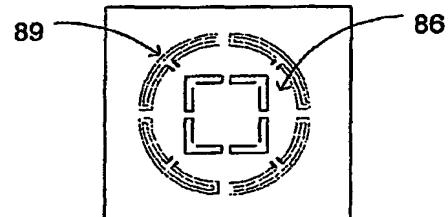


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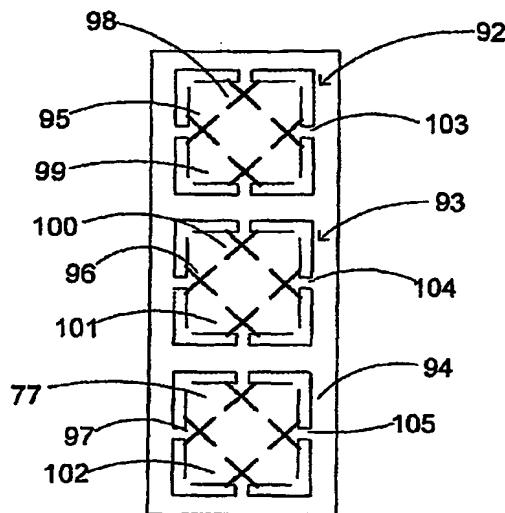


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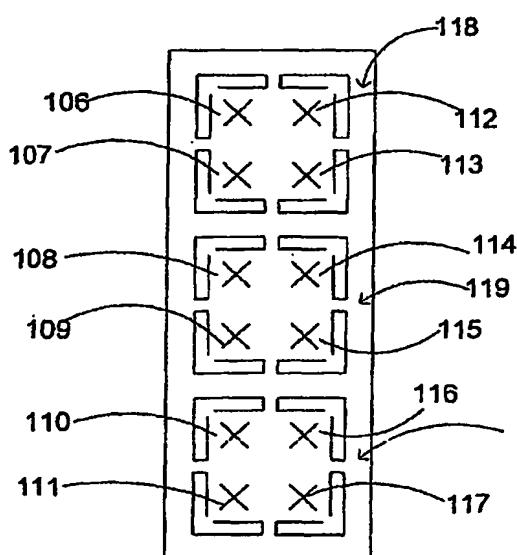


FIGURE 13

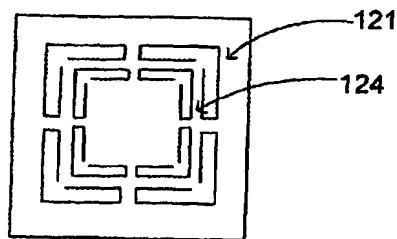


FIGURE 14

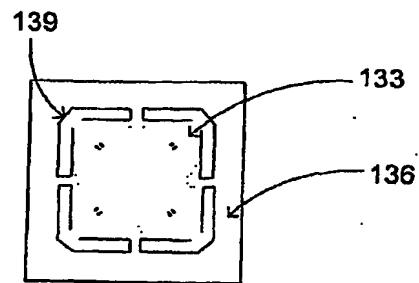


FIGURE 16

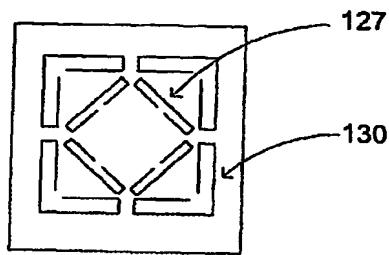


FIGURE 15

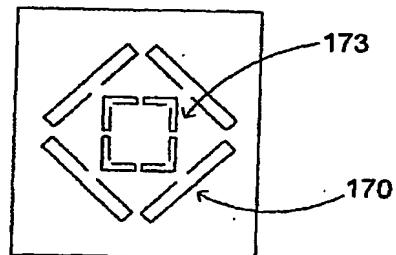


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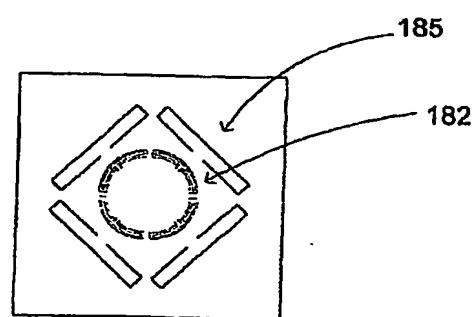


FIGURE 18

Figure 19

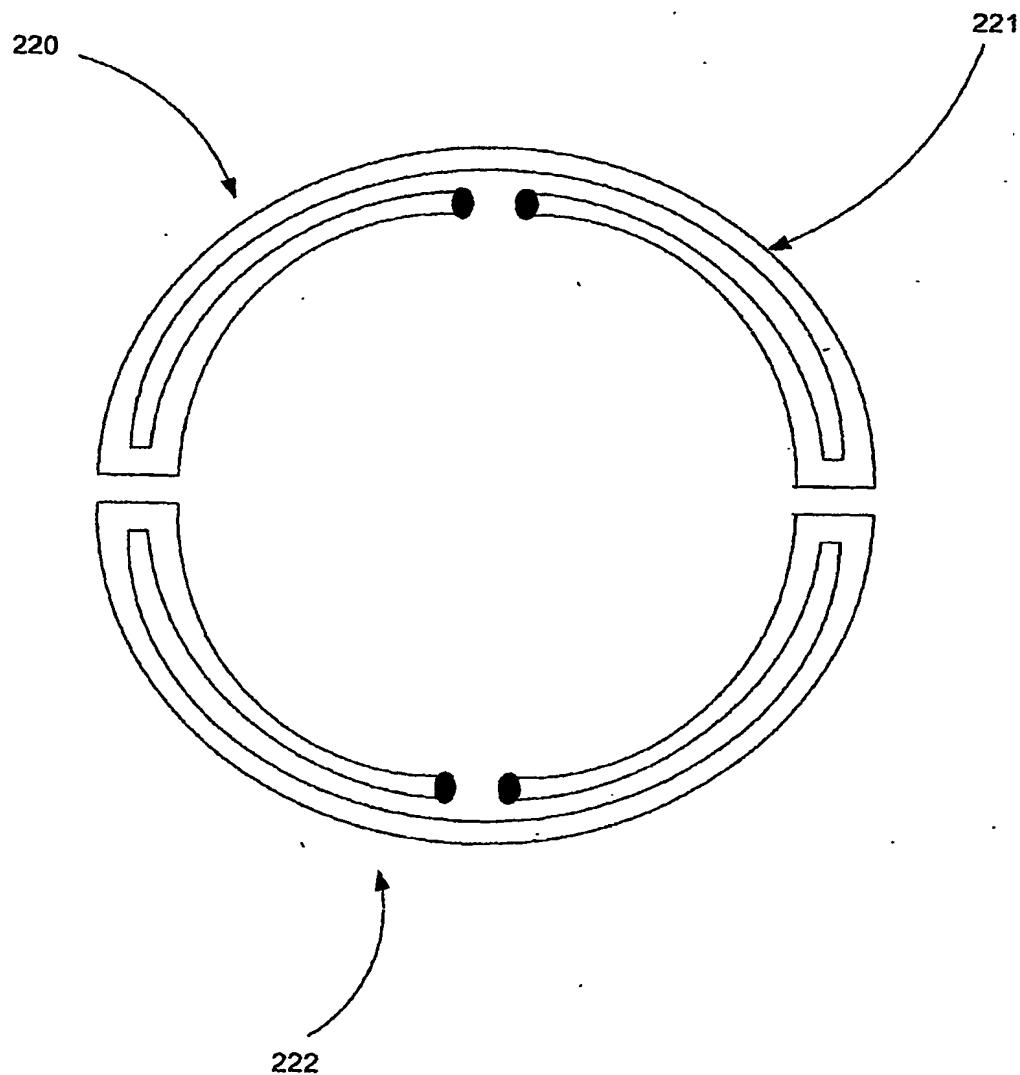


Figure 20

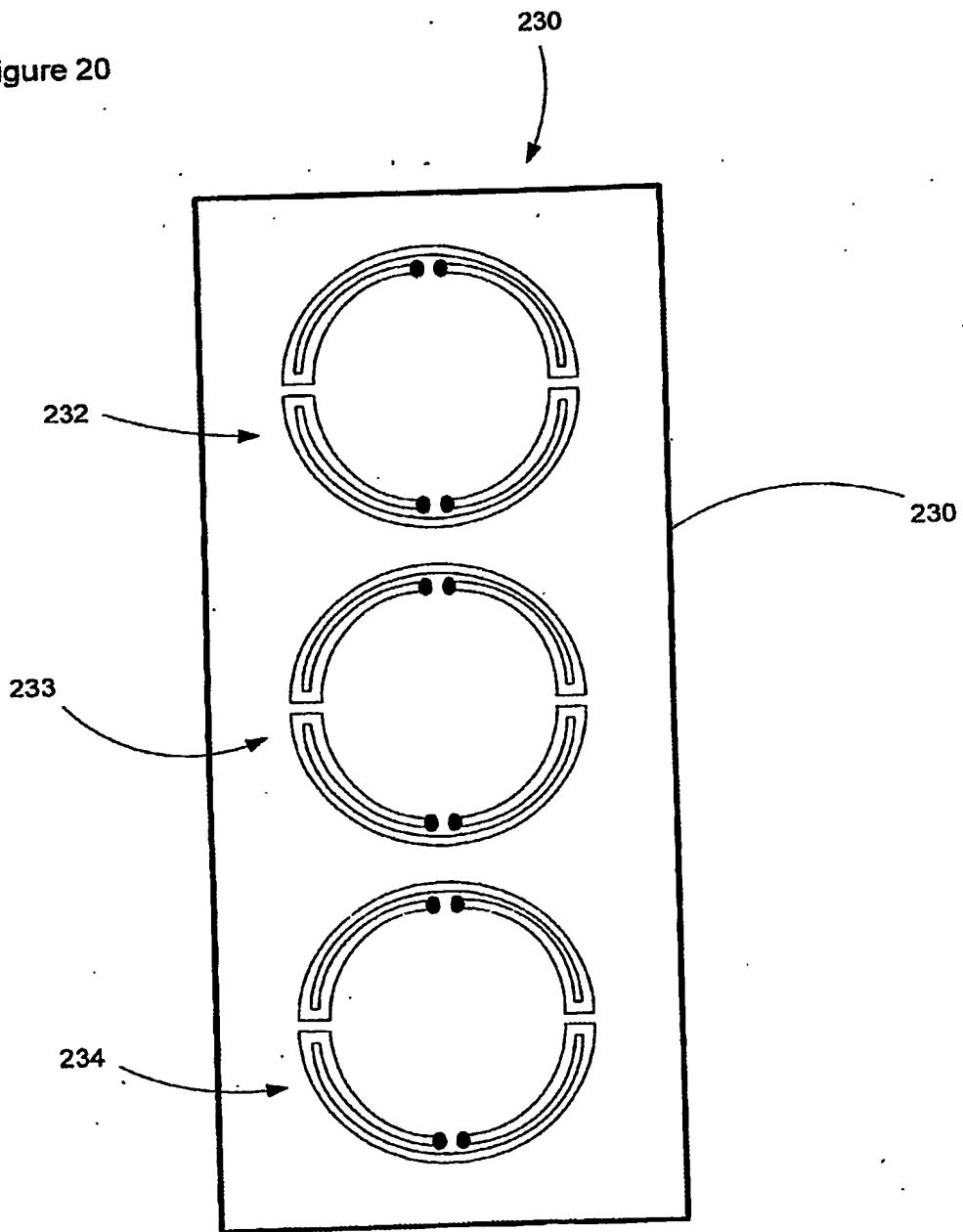
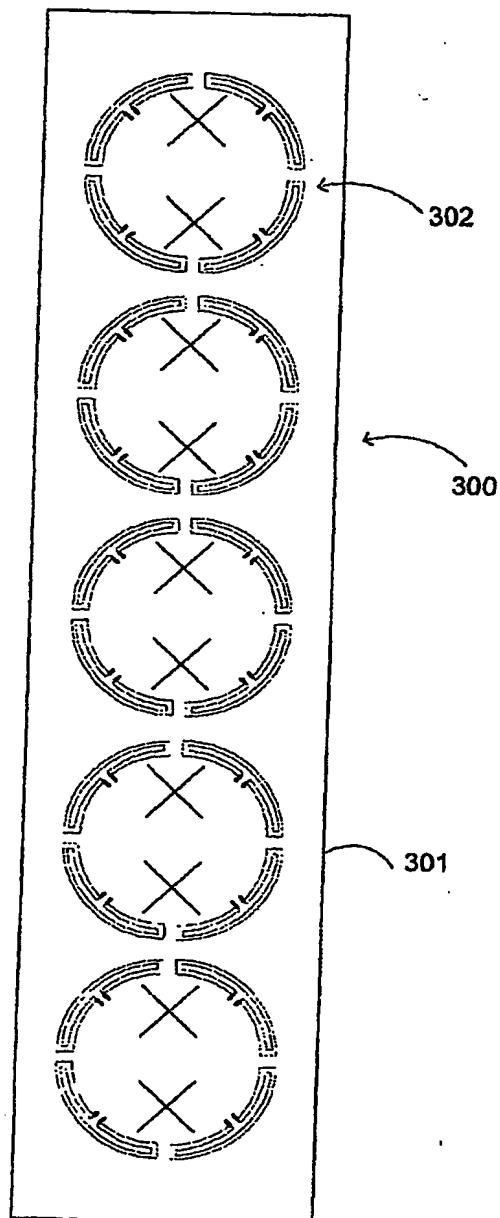


Figure 21



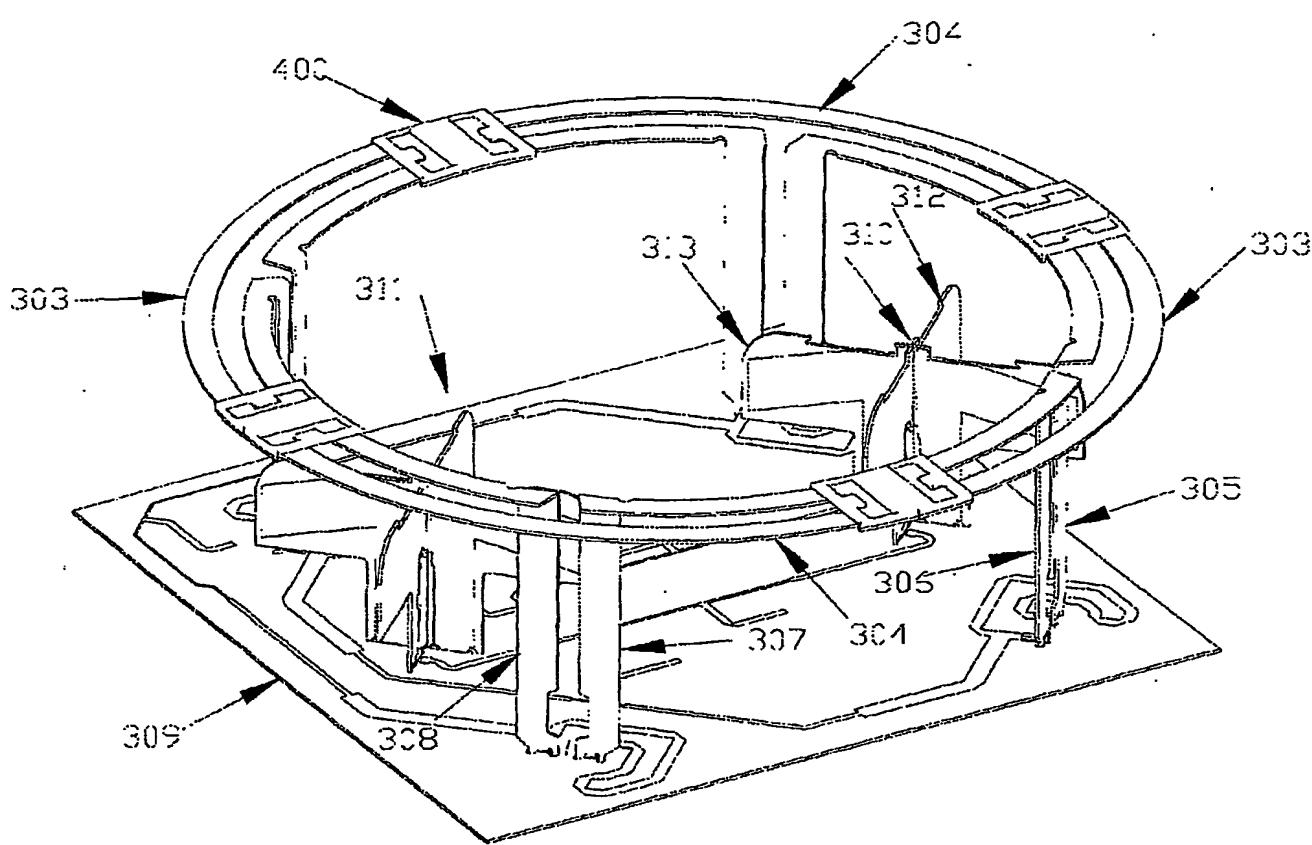


Figure 22

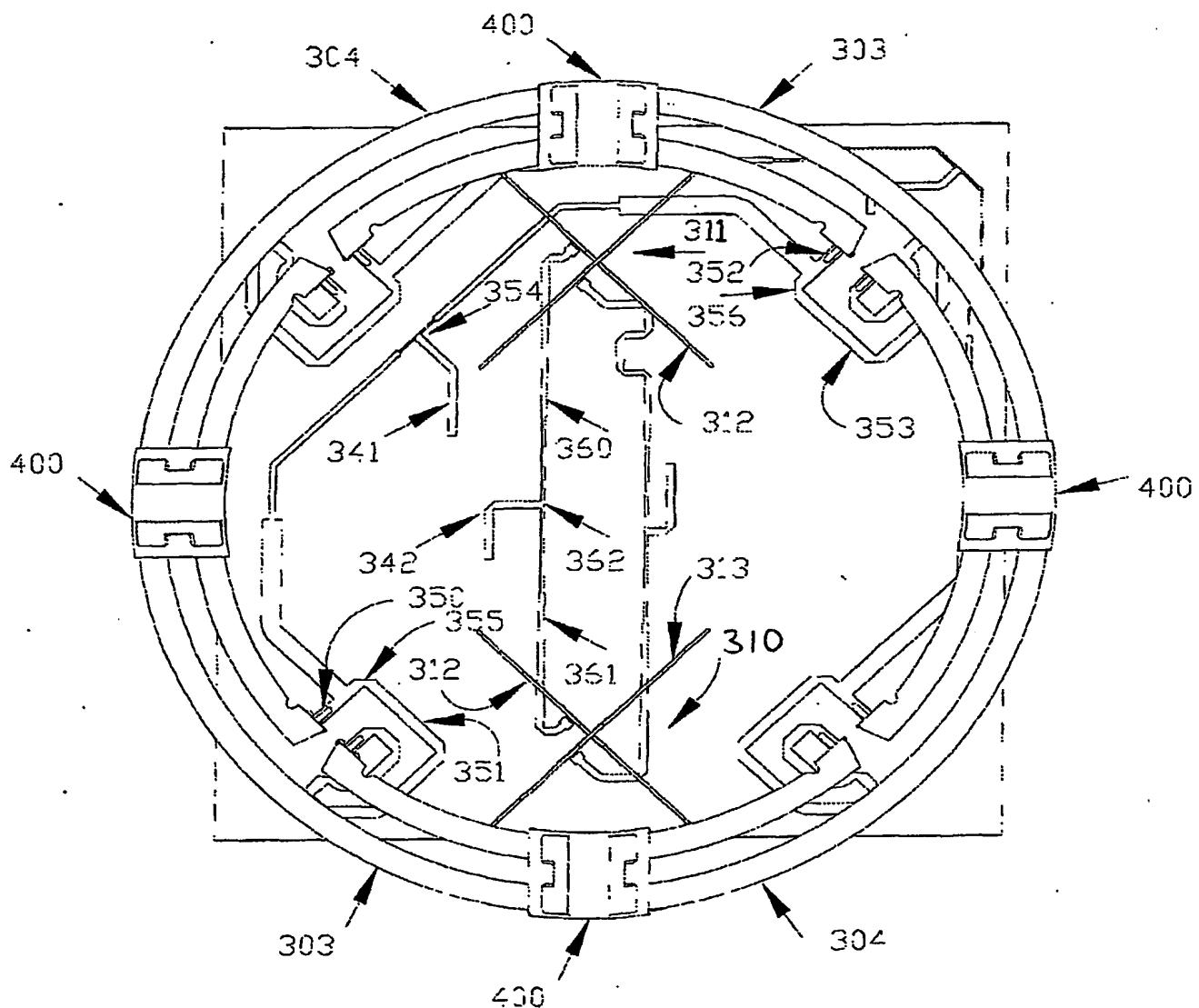


Figure 23

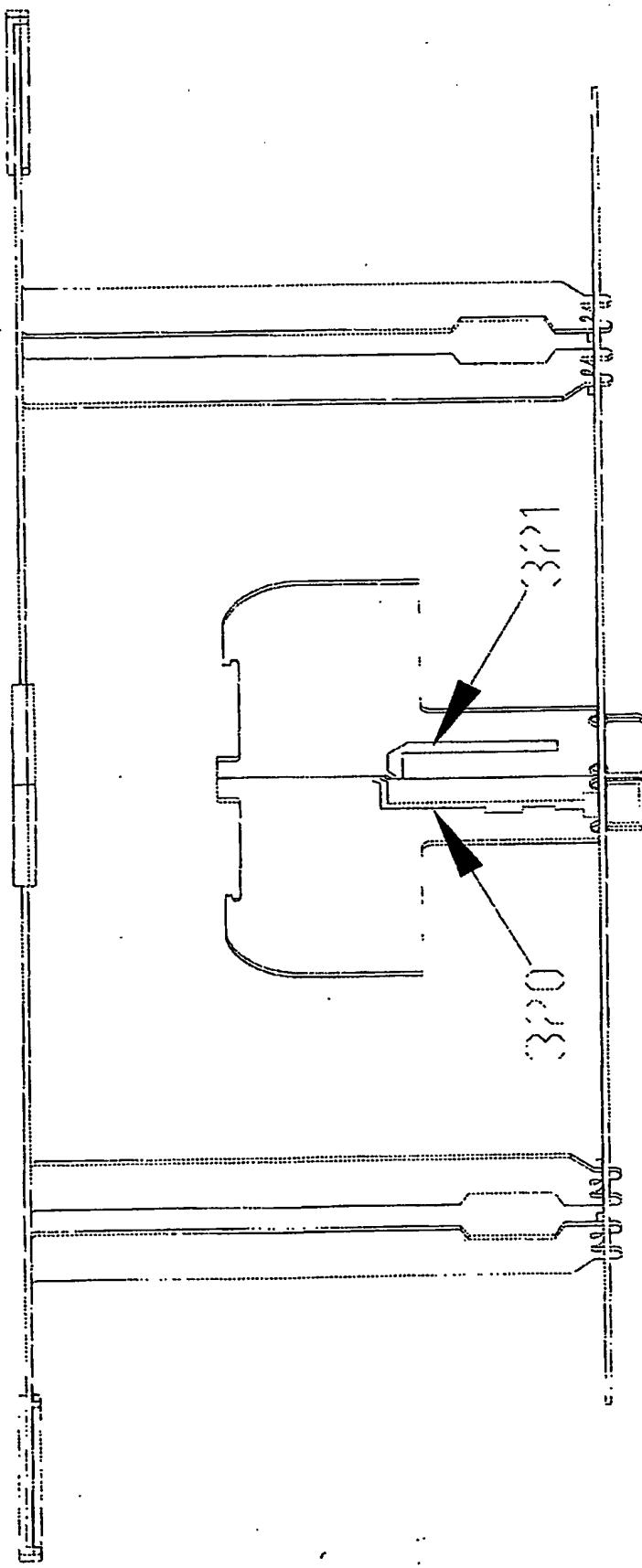


Figure 24

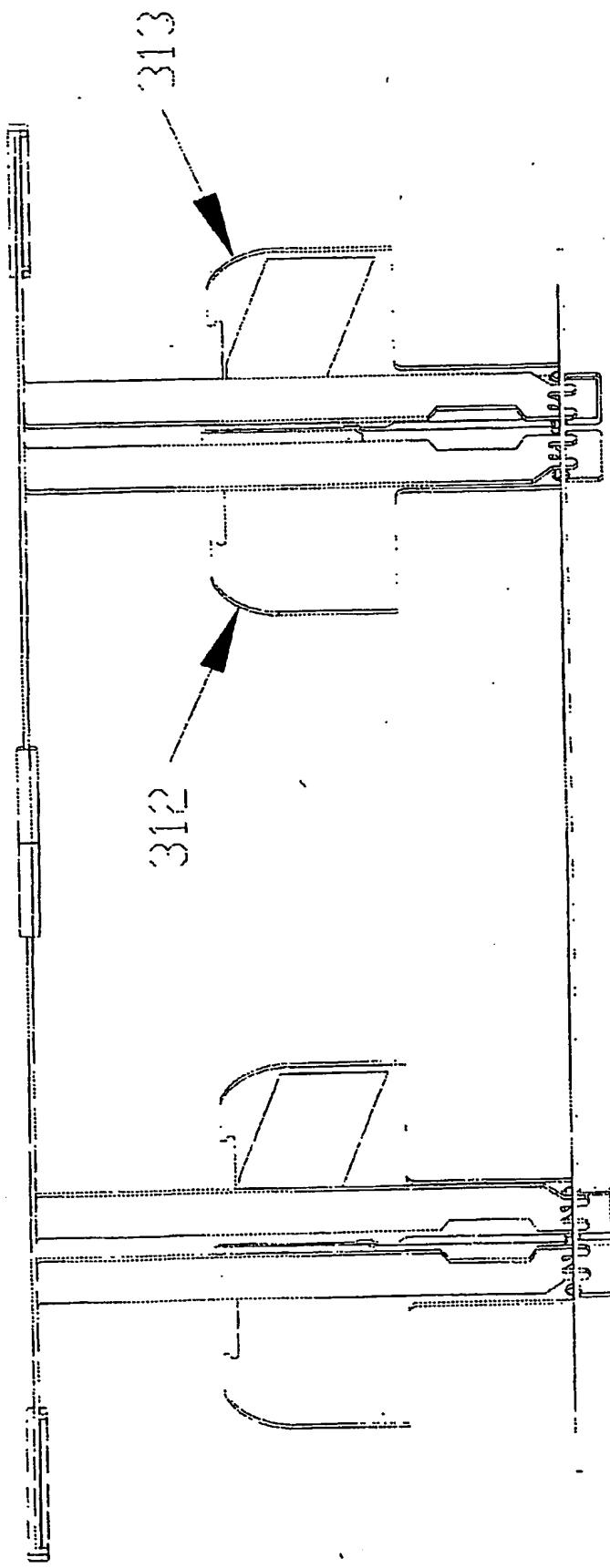
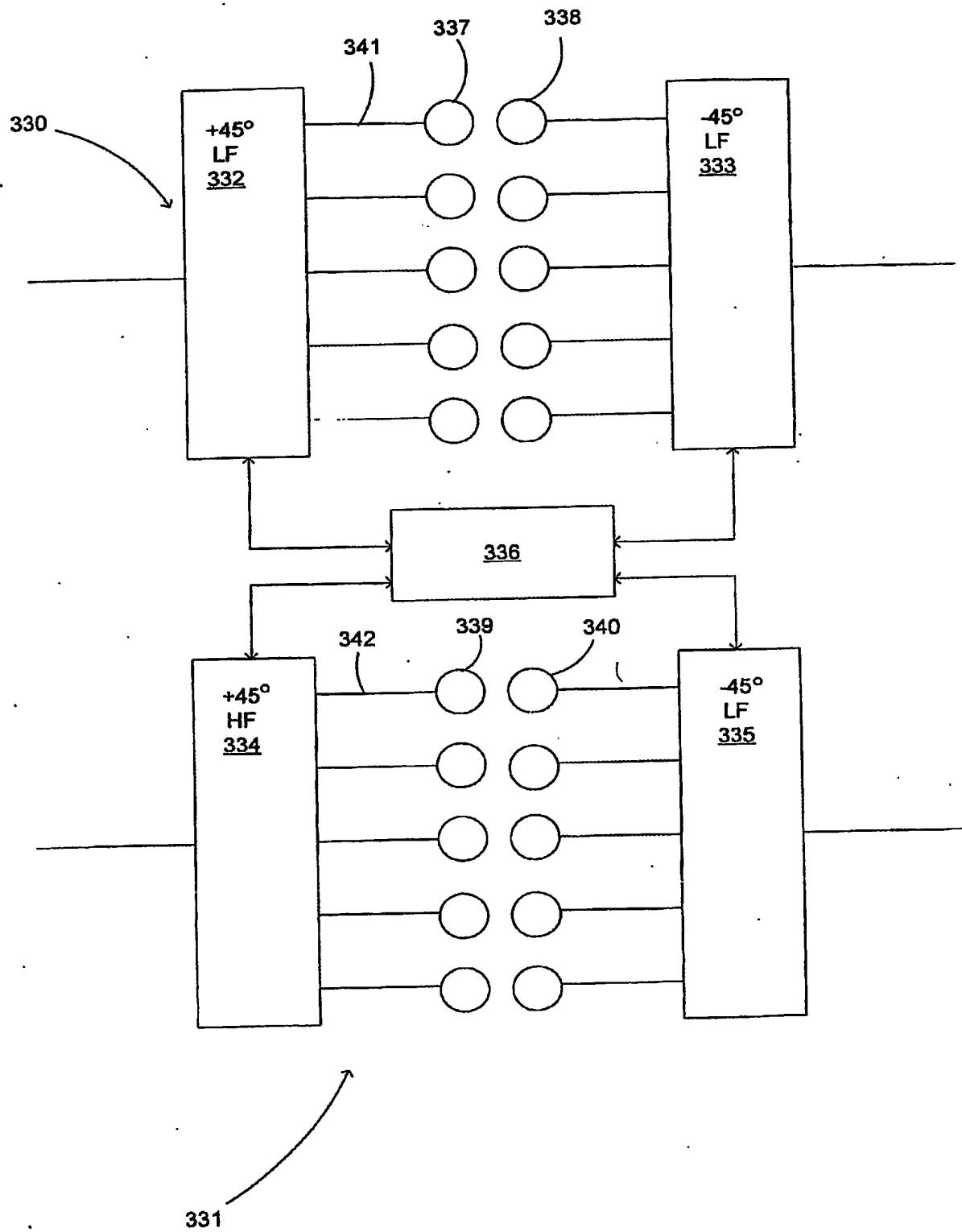


Figure 25

Figure 26



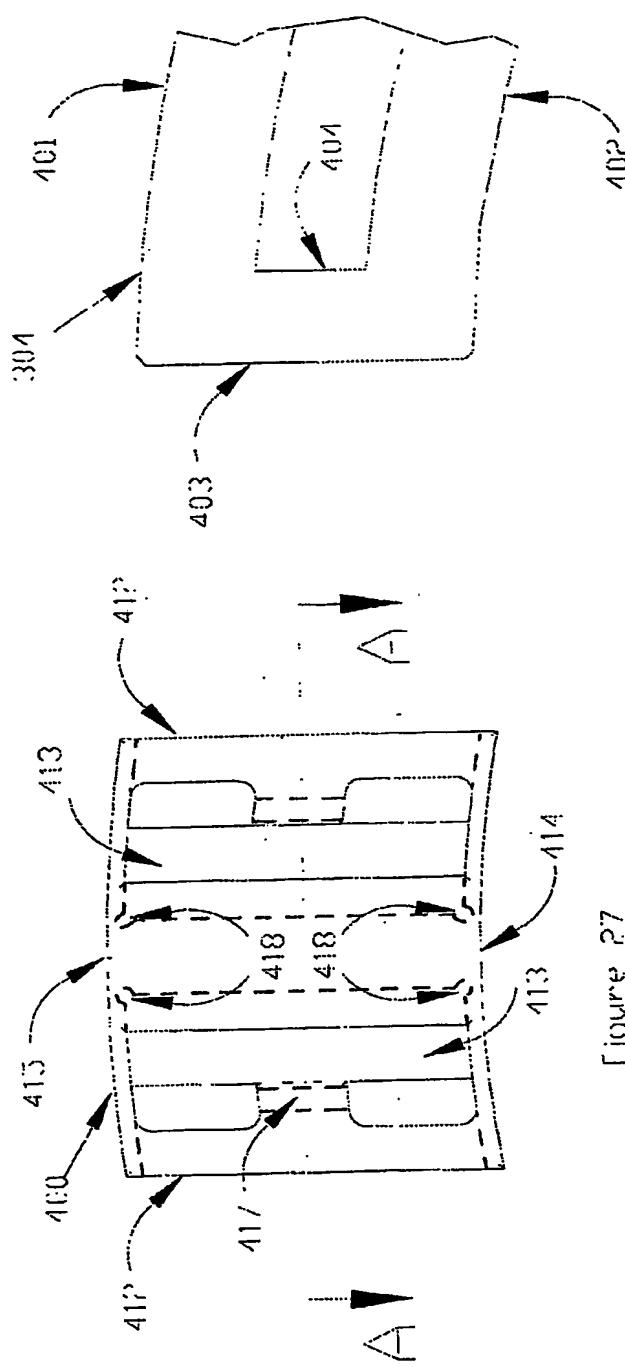


Figure 27

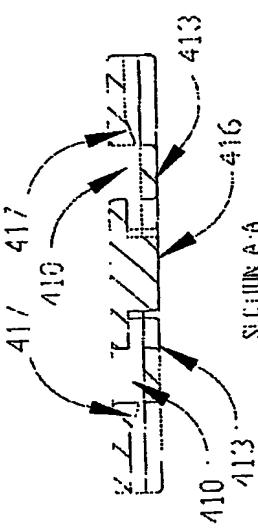


Figure 28

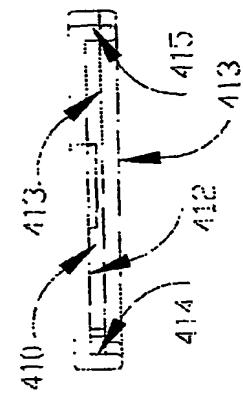


Figure 29

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